

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 05713 080935Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 L-03 H-01 CA-01 EB-08 HA-05
/035 W

-----040791 081035Z /11

P 061135Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8322

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 5713

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC, EFIN, NI (LEFEVRE, LOUIS)
SUBJECT: LEFEVRE CASE
REF: (A) LAGOS 5623, (B) LAGOS 5697

1. EMBASSY OFFICER MET WITH INSPECTOR GENERAL YSUF MAY 5. YUSUF SAID THAT HE HAD TAKEN HIMSELF OUT OF PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE LEFEVRE CASE SHORTLY AFTER DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR EASUM AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICER APRIL12, BUT THAT HE WOULD NOW LOOK INTO IT TO DETERMINE THE REASON FOR THE DELAY IN PROSECUTION AND WOULD INFORM THE EMBASSY OFFICER OF HIS FINDINGS. YSUSF SADI HE WAS AWARE EGBE THOUGHT HE HAD A GRUDGE AGAINST HIM AND THAT THIS IS A REASON WHY HE HAD DECIDED TO LET THE CASE PROCEED THROUGH NORMAL POLICE CHANNELS. CID HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INVESTIGATION. YUSUF HAD NO KIND WORDS FOR EGBE, WHOM HE CHARACTERIZES AS A THIEF AND WHO IN THE COURSE OF THESE INVESTIGATIONS, HE SAID, HAS PUT CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE ON MANY POLICE AND COURT OFFICIALS, MAINLY BY BUYING THEM OFF.

2. REGRETFULLY, YUSUF SAID HE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED SHOULD THE CASE BE DELAYED BEYOND THE JUNE 23 DATE AS NOW SET. THIS WAS A COMMON PRACTICE IN CASES SUCH AS THIS WHERE THE POLICE INVESTIGATOR IS PUT UNDER PRESSURE AND IS ANNOYED; HOWEVER, THE MAGISTRATE USUALLY SEES THROUGH THIS TACTIC AND ASKS FOR THE CHARGES TO BE SUB-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 05713 080935Z

STANTIATED OR THE CASE DROPPED. IN THIS CASE, YUSUF ADDED, THE MAGISTRATE IS KNOWN FOR HIS ABILITY AND FAIRNESS.

3. A MAJOR FACTOR NOW IN THE LEFEVRE CASE, SAID YUSUF, IS THAT IT HAS GONE ON FOR SO LONG THAT THE SIDES ARE DEEPLY COMMITTED. THE MINISTRY OF TRADE ASKED FOR A POLICE INVESTIGATION WHICH IS BEING CARRIED OUT WITH

GREAD DIFFICULTY BECAUSE OF EGBE'S INTERFERING TACTICS, WHICH YUSUF SAYS HAVE CORRUPTED A NUMBER OF HIS POLICE, ALTHOUGH THIS IS HARD TO PROVE. THE CID OFFICERS IN CHARGE NOW ARE RELUCTANT TO DROP THE CHARGES FOR FEAR THAT EGBE WILL BRING SUIT AGAINST THEM FOR FALSE PROSECUTION. THEY ALSO FEAR THE WRATH OF THEIR SUPERIORS FOR PROLONGING THE CASE WITHOUT REAL EVIDENCE, OR FAILURE TO FIND THE EVIDENCE, OR LOOKING AS IF THEY HAVE SUCCUMBED TO BRIBERY. IN SPITE OF ALL THIS, YUSUF PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE STATE OF THE INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE WHAT IS GOING ON.

4. IN RESPONSE TO A CAREFULLY WORDED QUESTION, YUSUF SAID IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR LEFEVRE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY IF HE APPLIED TO A MAGISTRATE TO DO SO. THE MAGISTRATE MIGHT REQUIRE AN ADDITIONAL SURETY AS A GUARANTEE THAT LEFEVRE WOULD RETURN FOR THE HEARING, OR HE MIGHT INCREASE THE BAIL.

5. YUSUF SAID HE HAD IT IN HIS POLICE POWER TO DROP THE CASE IF NO EVIDENCE OF A CRIME WAS FOUND. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HIMSELF COULD EFFECT THE SAME RESULT THROUGH HIS POWER OF PERSUASION.

6. YUSUF WAS AWARE OF THE PUBLICITY ON THE CASE IN THE UNITED STATES, THOUGH HE HAD NOT READ ANY OF IT, AND OF THE POSSIBILITY OF MORE AND WORSE IF THE CASE IS NOT SETTLED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAGOS 05713 080935Z

SOON. HE ALSO KNOWS THE EFFECT THIS CAN HAVE ON THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE IN THE U.S.

7. COMMENT: YUSUF WAS RELAXED AND DID NOT AT ALL MIND TALKING ABOUT THE CASE. HE ADMITS THAT LEFEVRE IS CAUGHT UP IN A CONFLICT THAT REALLY IS BETWEEN THE POLICE AND EGBE, BUT HE THINKS THAT THIS CANNOT NOW BE HELPED SINCE THERE MAY BE EVIDENCE AGAINST LEFEVRE AS WELL. WE BELIEVE THAT YUSUF WILL BE FAIR BUT CAREFUL. HE, TOO, IS IN A SPOT AND DOES NOT WANT TO LOOK AS IF HE IS INTERFERING IN A POLICE INVESTIGATION AS LONG AS IT IS BEING CONDUCTED PROPERLY. WE PLAN TO WAIT A WEEK BEFORE RECONTACTING YUSUF IF HE DOES NOT INITIATE CONTACT BEFORE THEN.

8. WE WILL NOW ENDEAVOR TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE PROCEDURE UNDER WHICH LEFEVRE COULD APPLY TO A MAGISTRATE FOR PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. WE THINK IT MIGHT PROVE THAT THIS IS THE MOST EXPEDITIOUS WAY OF ENABLING HIM TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.
WYMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE COMPLAINTS, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAGOS05713
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780194-0886
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780586/aaaacvoi.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b45f3aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LAGOS 5623, 78 LAGOS 5697
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2771541
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEFEVRE CASE
TAGS: CASC, EFIN, CARR, NI, (LEFEVRE, LOUIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b45f3aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014